

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7656

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CI

SUBJECT: FORMER CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S OBSERVATIONS  
ON CHILE AND MEXICO

1. FORMER CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER CLODIMIRO ALMEYDA CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON AMBASSADOR IN REGARD TO HIS DESIRE FOR A U.S. VISITOR'S VISA. (THIS IS BEING HANDLED SEPARATELY THROUGH CONSULAR CHANNELS.) HE PLANS TO VISIT STOCKHOLM FOR FOLLOW-UP TO BERTRAND RUSSELL TRIBUNE ON CHILE FOLLOWING ON WHICH HE WISHES TO VISIT UNITED NATIONS PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF BOUTEFILKA'S PRESIDENCY. HE WISHES PERSONALLY TO THANK BOUTEFILKA FOR UN RESOLUTION REQUESTING HIS RELEASE BY CHILEAN GOVERNMENT.

2. SPEAKING OF CHILEAN SITUATION, ALMEYDA SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION MATTERS HAD GROWN SO SERIOUS THAT HE WOULD WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS SEE A CHANGE IN THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT FROM WITHIN THE RULING JUNTA. INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, HUNGER AND PUBLIC DISCONTENT AS WELL AS DESPAIR OVER CHILEAN ISOLATION WERE SUCH THAT A CHANGE WOULD BECOME NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PRESENT WORLD WITH A MORE SMILING CONTENTANCE AND IN ORDER TO TAKE SOME SMALL STEP TOWARD INTERNAL LIBERALIZATION. HE THOUGHT DRACONIAN MEASURES WOULD PROBABLY HAVE RESULTED BY THEN IN SOME DIMUNITION  
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OF INFLATION WHICH WOULD PERMIT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO

INCREASE ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE. MORE IMPORTANT FROM POINT OF VIEW OF CHILEAN EXILES WAS PROSPECT OF FIRST STEP TOWARDS GRANTING MORE INTERNAL LIBERTIES. HISTORY HAS PROVEN IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE A FIRST STEP WITHOUT ITS BEING FOLLOWED BY SECOND AND THIRD STEPS AND THIS WOULD BE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR DOMESTIC OPPOSITION BEGINNING WITH EFFERVESCENT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AS WELL AS FOR THOSE REMNANTS OF ALLENDE SYMPATHIZERS STILL IN CHILE. HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT CHILEAN MILITARY WERE ALSO AWARE THAT FIRST STEP TOWARD LIBERALIZATION WAS CRUCIAL ONE AND HENCE THERE WOULD BE RELUCTANCE AND OPPOSITION IN THE JUNTA TOWARDS MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION, BUT IN HIS OPINION IT IS INEVITABLE.

3. REGARDING MEXICAN SITUATION, WHILE HE EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HOSPITALITY GIVEN TO CHILEAN EXILES HERE HE SEEMED UNCOMFORTABLE IN REGARD TO THE MEXICAN STYLE OF GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS AT THE "DISORDER" AND HUGENESS OF MEXICO CITY ITSELF.

4. COMMENTING ON ECHEVERRIA'S RECENT TRIP HE SAID TYPICALLY MEXICAN "SPECTACLE" ASPECT OF TRIP WERE ALMOST EMBARRASSING TO HIM AS A FRIEND OF MEXICO'S. HE OBSERVED THAT MEXICO, AND PARTICULARLY ECHEVERRIA, HAD OFTEN TENDED TO ACT THIS WAY ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE AND HE RECALLED ECHEVERRIA'S ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER UNCTAD AT SANTIAGO TO PRESENT HIS CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES. NEVERTHELESS, ONE MUST ADMIT THAT MEXICO PRIOR TO 1971 WAS ISOLATED IN WORLD AFFAIRS, HAD FAILED TO OBTAIN MEXICO AS THE SITE FOR UNCTAD MEETING, HAD FAILED TO OBTAIN ELECTION TO VARIOUS IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL POSTS, ETC. NOW, THANKS TO ECHEVERRIA'S PROJECTING HIMSELF, MEXICO WAS UNDOUBTEDLY IN A MUCH STRONGER POSITION INTERNATIONALLY. HE OBSERVED SYMPATHETICALLY THAT CONSEQUENCES OF THIS AGGRESSIVENESS AND MEXICO'S THIRD WORLD ATTITUDE MUST SOMETIME BE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR THE U.S. AND RECALLED (SOMEWHAT MISTAKENLY IF MY OWN MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT) THAT CHILE EVEN UNDER ALLENDE AND FREI HAD ALWAYS HANDLED THESE MATTERS MORE DELICATELY.

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